

Amendments to the Claims

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1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) In a mobile station of the type comprising a processor, data storage, a wireless communication interface and a user interface, wherein the wireless communication interface comprises an antenna and is arranged to send and receive signals over a radio frequency air interface in communication with a base station, and wherein the user interface comprises a microphone for receiving analog speech signals from a user, a speaker for playing out analog speech signals to the user, a display for presenting information to a user, and a mechanism engageable by a user in order to initiate push-to-talk (PTT) communication, a method of reducing call setup latency comprising:

receiving into the mobile station, from the user, a request to change a mode of operation of the mobile station from a normal mode to a PTT mode;

responsive to the request, (i) the mobile station switching from operation at a first paging slot cycle index to operation at a second paging slot cycle index, wherein the mobile station checks a paging channel for pages more often when operating at the second paging slot cycle index than when operating at the first paging slot cycle index, and (ii) the mobile station sending a signaling message via an air interface to a base station controller, directing the base station controller to switch to operating at the second paging slot cycle index as well, whereby both the base station and the mobile station then operate at the second paging slot cycle index;

the mobile station receiving and buffering a speech signal provided by the user;

the mobile station setting up an initiating communication leg with a PTT server; and

responsive to establishment of the initiating communication leg with the PTT server, the mobile station sending the initiating user's buffered speech signal along to the PTT server for transmission in turn to at least one other station.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the first paging slot cycle index is slot cycle index 2, and wherein the second paging slot cycle index is slot cycle index 0.

20. (New) A mobile station comprising:

a processor;

data storage;

a wireless communication interface comprising an antenna and being arranged to send and receive signals over a radio frequency air interface in communication with a base station;

a user interface comprising a microphone for receiving analog speech signals from a user, a speaker for playing out analog speech signals to the user, a display for presenting information to a user, and a mechanism engageable by a user in order to initiate push-to-talk (PTT) communication; and

machine language instructions stored in the data storage and executable by the processor to carry out functions comprising:

receiving into the mobile station, from the user, a request to change a mode of operation of the mobile station from a normal mode to a PTT mode,

responsive to the request, (i) switching from operation at a first paging slot cycle index to operation at a second paging slot cycle index, wherein the mobile station checks a paging channel for pages more often when operating at the second paging slot cycle

index than when operating at the first paging slot cycle index, and (ii) sending a signaling message via an air interface to a base station controller, directing the base station controller to switch to operating at the second paging slot cycle index as well,

receiving and buffering a speech signal provided by the user,

setting up an initiating communication leg with a PTT server, and

responsive to establishment of the initiating communication leg with the PTT server, sending the initiating user's buffered speech signal along to the PTT server for transmission in turn to at least one other station.

21. (New) The mobile station of claim 20, wherein the first paging slot cycle index is slot cycle index 2, and wherein the second paging slot cycle index is slot cycle index 0.